informed this Ministry that this issue of foodgrains from Food Corporation of India (FCI) under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme will be stopped to credit basis with effect from 1st February, 2003 and such foodgrains will be issued either on advance payment or on cash and carry basis. Following discussions with that Ministry the supply of foodgrains is continuing uninterrupted.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that a lot of poor children going to the so called schools, collect food or grains, sell them in the market and go home because there are no teachers, there are no schools and there are no books. In view of the fact that the Budget does not allot you enough funds for the Sarvshiksha Abhiyan and other programmes, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister intends to approach the World Bank to fund our elementary education.

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : श्री मन्, मैंने बहुत पहले ही, जब दूसरे प्रश्न का उत्तर था, उसमें बता दिया था कि क्या स्थिति है, हमने कितने करोड़ रूपया दिया है, कितने विद्यालयों के भवन बनाए हैं, क्या-क्या किया है। जहां तक इस प्रश्न का सवाल है कि बच्चों के पास भोजन का अभाव है, इस संबंध में मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि वित्त मंत्रालय से बातचीत होने के बाद, खाद्य आपूर्ति मंत्रालय से बातचीत होने के बाद इस समस्या का निवारण हो गया है और अब कोई दिक्कत इस मध्याह्न भोजन योजना में है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERSTO STARRED QUESTIONS

Agreement for deep sea sand mining

*241. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the State Government of Kerala entered into an agreement with a private firm for deep sea sand mining;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala sought the opinion of Central agencies on the environmental impact before signing agreement;

(c) whether Government subscribe to the view that the dredging causes irreparable damage to the Marine Eco System and traditional fishing sector;

(d) whether Government propose to conduct a study on the environmental impact of sand mining through any Central agencies; and

(e) the extent to which the Coastal Zone Regulation Act permits the mining of sea sand?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The State Government of Kerala has informed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 19th January, 2003 between the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Limited (KSIDC) and Crown Maritime Company (I) Limited. Mavelikkara for conducting a feasibility study for sea sand mining.

(b) and (d) As per the MoU signed, the final decision regarding the implementation of the project is subject to clearances of requisite authorities of the State as well as Central Government and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out by the Naitonal Institute of Oceanography (NIO).

(c) Dredging of sea sand could adversely impact marine flora and fauna, in particular, the sea bed ecosystem.

(e) Minining of said in the Coastai Regulation Zone is a prohibited activity except for Andaman & Nicobar Islands, since there is no suitable alternate construction material available in these islands.

Changes in history text books

*245. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make some changes in the history books; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Government of India